

OLC-78-0459 -

OGC 78-0566

20 January 1978

OGC
ENT Pack
FOIA

STAT MEMORANDUM FOR:
Legislative Counsel

STAT FROM :
Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT : Proposed Comments to the Senate
Select Committee on Intelligence re
the Impact of the FOIA on Agency
Activities

1. This memorandum concerns the impact of the Freedom of Information Act on Agency activities and describes some problems faced as a result of the implementation of this law.

2. It will detail the administrative burden faced by the CIA in complying with the Freedom of Information Act, details of the problems encountered in conducting searches, the effect of judicial holdings on CIA's interpretations of the law, and proposed amendments to exemption 7. Additionally, there is a discussion of difficulties encountered in CIA liaison relationships caused by abidance with the FOIA.

3. A significant portion of Agency resources, particularly in terms of the energies of senior management, has been devoted to the administration of the FOIA, while very little information of interest to the public has, in fact, been released through the mechanism of the Act. Unless legislative relief is obtained it can be anticipated that the continued diversion of CIA resources might well impair the Agency's ability to carry out its functions.